THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Against the Government decision to recruit 1000 surrendered Bodo militants, CRPF have provisionally selected 352. The remaining quota will be filled up by Assam Rifles, BSF and more recruitment by CRPF subject to fulfilling of prescribed norms by the candidates.

Unprecedented snowfall in J and K and Himachal Pradesh

2394. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who lost their lives and those missing and loss of property in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh due to unprecedented snowfall and avalanches during winter of 2004-05;

(b) the extent of damage caused to property as a result thereof;

(c) the financial assistance/compensation given by Central Government for relief and rehabilitation of victims of natural calamity in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh; and

(d) how many victims are foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) 283 civilians besides 14 ITBP, 6 BRO (GREF) and 6 BSF personnel in Jammu and Kashmir and 5 civilians in Himachal Pradesh lost their lives due to recent snowfall and avalanches.

(b) In Jammu and Kashmir, 28,787 houses were fully/partially damaged. 91,780 hectares of cropped area, 1,03,100 hectares of horticulture were damaged besides there was also a loss to sericulture and livestock. There was also damage to the power sector, roads and bridges and other civic infrastructure. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has not informed this Ministry of the damage.

(c) An amount of Rs. 50.00 crore was released for Jammu and Kashmir from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) as an immediate assistance for the calamity. A Central Team also visited the State for an on the spot damage assessment and requirement of funds. Further assistance will be released based on the report of the Central Team and the norms and guidelines thereof. The Government of Himachal Pradesh have not requested for Central assistance and that they have provided

ex-gratia out of the funds available with the State in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF).

(d) No foreign tourists have so far been reported to be victims of the calamity.

Insertion of the word 'Kashmir' in National Anthem

2395. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed and admitted in the Supreme Court of India for deleting the name of 'Sindh' from our National Anthem and inserting 'Kashmir' in its place; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) Yes, Sir. A Civil Writ Petition has been filed in the Supreme Court for deletion of the word 'Sindh' from the National Anthem or its substitution by any other proper and approved word like 'Kashmir'.

(b) The Government is opposed to any deletion, addition, etc. in the National Anthem and is, therefore, contesting the Writ Petition.

Universities to study natural calamities

2396. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several universities in the country have requested for financial assistance for establishing a national centre for the study of natural hazards and calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof, university-wise; and

(c) the action taken in this regard by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Requests had been received from Bhupendra Narayan Mandal University, Madhepura, Bihar and Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nasik, Maharashtra for opening of Institutes of Disaster Management in these Universities.